



Celebrity Worship

By:

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[Thesis]

- Research shows that as celebrity popularity grows so does the fans' loyalty and fascination towards them. That fascination hardly ever turns into obsession. The result of the fan's obsession can lead to stalking their favorite celebrity. In rare cases it can eventually lead to killing them. Through this research paper I will answer the following questions:
 1. Are there specific traits that can identify an obsessed fan who might act violently?
 2. Why does a person become so obsessed with someone they will never meet?
 3. Has celebrity obsession changed throughout the generations?

Normal Part of Identity-Development

Admiring celebrities as idols or role models has always been a normal part of identity-development in childhood and adolescence.

Giles & Maltby, 2004



[The Celebrity Attitude Scale]

- The Celebrity Attitude Scale suggests that three sets of attitudes and behaviors are associated with celebrity worship.

[The Celebrity Attitude Scale]

1. **Entertainment-Social celebrity worship-** an attraction to a favorite celebrity because of their alleged ability to entertain and social focus.
2. **Intense-Personal-** attitudes that show intensive and uncontrollable feelings about the celebrity.
3. **Borderline-Pathological-** the most extreme expression of celebrity worship, this attitude is thought to reflect an individual's social-pathological attitudes and behaviors.

[Eysenckian Personality Theory]

- Maltby, Houran, and McCutcheon have found evidence that the three dimensions of celebrity worship may be similar to the three dimensions of the Eysenckian Personality Theory of 1985:
 1. **Extraversion**- Sociable and active traits are associated with extraversion.
 2. **Neuroticism**- Nervous and emotional traits can be seen in this dimension.
 3. **Psychoticism**- Anti-social and ego-centric traits.

It is hard to diagnosed someone into just one of these dimensions. In the case of Jack McFarland, he fell into all three of them.

[Fans gone Crazy.....]

- However, this can turn into an abnormal phenomenon where individuals become virtually obsessed with one or more celebrities.
- Which was the case with Jack McFarland, from Will & Grace.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpxZ4Zaioio>

[Leave the stalking to them....]

- Websites such as Gawker.com provide celebrity coverage (in New York City) into real time with reports of where the stars are at any moment.

<http://www.gawker.com/stalker/?refId=70983>

[Stalking]

- Stalking has received an enormous amount of attention in the scientific, legal, and public press since the mid-1990s. In fact, it has even been referred to as the quintessential crime of the that decade

The A.A. & B.B. Case

- Mentioned in “*Celebrity, Stalking, Homicide, and Suicide*” by Louis B. Schlesinger.
- A case in which an obsessed fan attempts to kill a rock star and then commits suicide.
- A.A. had a very ordinary life, he had no criminal background, was an introvert but did have some male friends.
- He showed some traits that are not typical of violent stalkers. Most people that stalk do not become violent.

[Methodology]

- Send out 2,000 questionnaires with 40 questions to high schools, colleges, retirement homes, etc.
- To people in the age group of 14-62.
- Different questionnaire for people who work in the media. As well as for people over the age of 50. It will ask them questions regarding their teenage years.
- This will help us determine if celebrity worship has changed throughout the generations.

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